

their cognitive, developmental and sensory abilities. Children have difficulty judging speed, spatial relationships and distance. The risk to disabled individuals and the elderly must also be considered, as they can be unable to move out of the way of a backing vehicle. The risk is augmented as cars get bigger and taller, increasing a driver's "blind spot" behind the car, making the driver unaware of what my lie behind.

Unfortunately, families in my home state of Colorado are already painfully aware of the danger posed by backing vehicles. In Greeley, Colorado, a grandfather accidentally backed over his 18-month-old grandson with a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV), killing the child last December. A few months later, tragedy struck a couple in Denver when an elderly man on an electric scooter was fatally injured when his wife accidentally backed their minivan into him in the driveway of their home.

At this time, there are no concrete studies to show the dangers of backing vehicles. I ask the Department of Transportation to conduct a study to determine the number of fatalities, injuries and property damage caused by slow-speed backing vehicle accidents. I urge my colleagues to support such a study.

HONORING DONALD WEBER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, today I invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Donald Weber on the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of Community School District 21.

Donald Weber has long been known for his commitment to the children of Community School District 21 and to providing them with the finest educational opportunities that public education can provide. Donald Weber is truly representative of the best that our community has to offer.

As Superintendent of Community School District 21 for the last seventeen years, Donald Weber developed numerous special programs including: Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented, Project ADAPT (a model program that is an alternative to suspension), a strong parent involvement program as evidence by the activities of the District Parents' Workshop, the Brooklyn Studio Secondary School, a model inclusionary middle/high school and The Bay Academy For the Arts and Sciences, a magnet school for children interested in the sciences.

Under the dedicated leadership of Donald Weber, standardized reading and math scores of District 21's students continue to rank among the highest in New York City and the number of students achieving at or above grade level continues to increase.

In recognition of his stature as a dynamic educator and for his efforts on behalf of the students of Community School District 21, Donald Weber has received numerous awards including being named as the New York State Superintendent of the Year 1999-2000.

Donald Weber is a lifetime resident of Community School District 21 and is a product of

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its schools. A graduate of Public School 177, Donald Weber has routinely demonstrated his commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents. He is former member of Community Planning Board 13 and is a founding member of the Shorefront Friends For Hospice, Inc.

Donald Weber has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those with whom he has come into contact. Through his dedicated efforts, he has helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of his many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents and their children, I offer my congratulations to Donald Weber on the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of Community School District 21.

SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT PROGRAMS

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Violence Against Women Act and to encourage its reauthorization by Congress and the President.

As you know, legislation proposing a federal response to the problem of violence against women was first introduced in 1990, although violence against my gender has been recognized as a serious social problem since the late 1970's. Previous enactment of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) measures have resulted in grant programs and new penalties aimed at increasing awareness and reducing the occurrence of crimes against women. Reauthorization of VAWA ensures that our protection of women and perseverance in this area does not lapse, and provides support for the next five years to the law enforcement, hotlines, shelters and services, and community initiatives that assist our cities and localities in dealing with these types of crimes.

Through this program, we have been able to better educate the American public how to respond to crimes against women. This funding has allowed us to bring bring domestic violence out of the shadows and into the forefront. For example, in my district of Louisville, since VAWA money has become available our area has become a model for other jurisdictions because of its multi-disciplinary approach to domestic violence. Agencies and organizations, previously struggling to cooperate with each other, now are working together.

As a community we have received approximately \$5.5 million in VAWA money. Our police are better trained and educated concerning the cycle of domestic violence. Victim advocates now work side by side with the police to provide a better response to victims of domestic violence. More evidence is being collected than ever before, and more victims are taking the brave step of coming forward and more convictions are stopping the cycle of abuse.

Violence against women is not solely a problem for women. Every case that is left unaddressed has the potential to create more

violence, to fuel a downward spiral of mental and physical abuse and to destroy more families. I believe the initiatives begun in 1990 go a long way in addressing the need for a tougher stance in this area. We must continue our commitment to increasing personal safety for everyone, and focus our efforts on programs that work to educate the public and prevent future crimes. We must work to limit the devastating consequences that occur to our women, our families and society as a whole.

I encourage Congress to again support the VAWA programs which are so vital to combatting the occurrence of domestic abuse, before authorization expires on September 30, 2000.

DR. FRANK LEGGETT—FAMED BASSFIELD DOCTOR RETIRES

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you, my colleagues and the American people to tell you about an American treasure—Dr. Frank Leggett of Bassfield. Dr. Leggett has been a judge, mayor, coroner, alderman, football team physician, church deacon, and hospital chief of staff. In his spare time, Dr. Leggett delivered 300 precious lives to the community of Bassfield and our part of Mississippi. He brought lives into this world, then he nurtured them, served them and took care of them. Dr. Leggett gave more than he received. Our home, my home, Bassfield, is forever a better place because of the contributions of Dr. Frank Leggett.

Dr. Leggett was born in Brookhaven, MS, back in 1926. His early life was marked by our Nation's Great Depression and our greatest war—World War II. Dr. Leggett is part of the greatest generation who not only endured, but survived and built and gave. He and his generation gave us the greatest nation on the planet. He is a graduate of Ole Miss and Baylor. He worked in Meridian and then came to Bassfield in 1956.

He says he retired on June 30 of this year. But, I have to say, after 40 years on the Bassfield Board of Alderman, and Medical Staff President for 25 years at Jefferson Davis County Hospital (now Prentiss Regional Hospital) I don't think we will really allow this retirement to happen. He will still be with us. Dr. Leggett will be with us caring and giving and sharing like he always has. Dr. Leggett will be at church and across our community serving us as always.

Dr. Leggett loves to travel. He has seen most of our world. But he always made it back home to Bassfield where he belonged and where we needed him. I am indeed honored to stand before the American people and say thank you to Dr. Frank Leggett.